

SUPPLEMENTARY EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 14 88 0971

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (IPC)
X	US 6 169 776 B1 (COLLINS JAMES CHRISTOPHER [US]) 2 January 2001 (2001-01-02)	1-3, 8-10, 13-15	INV. G21C17/017
A	* abstract; figures 1,7 * * column 5, lines 1-46 *	4-7,11, 12	ADD. G21C15/25
A	JP H07 209261 A (BABCOCK HITACHI KK) 11 August 1995 (1995-08-11) * abstract; figures 1,2 * * paragraphs [0025] - [0034] *	1-15	
A	US 2008/087113 A1 (BAGLEY PAUL C [US] ET AL) 17 April 2008 (2008-04-17) * abstract; figures 1,4,4A,5 * * paragraphs [0020], [0026] - [0030] *	1-15	
			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (IPC)
			G21C
The supplementary search report has been based on the last set of claims valid and available at the start of the search.			
Place of search Munich		Date of completion of the search 26 July 2017	Examiner Manini, Adriano
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document			

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EPO FORM 1503 03.82 (P04N04)

CLAIMS INCURRING FEES

The present European patent application comprised at the time of filing claims for which payment was due.

☐ Only part of the claims have been paid within the prescribed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for those claims for which no payment was due and for those claims for which claims fees have been paid, namely claim(s):

☐ No claims fees have been paid within the prescribed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for those claims for which no payment was due.

LACK OF UNITY OF INVENTION

The Search Division considers that the present European patent application does not comply with the requirements of unity of invention and relates to several inventions or groups of inventions, namely:

see sheet B

☐ All further search fees have been paid within the fixed time limit. The present (supplementary) European search report has been drawn up for all claims.

☒ As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, the Search Division did not invite payment of any additional fee.

☐ Only part of the further search fees have been paid within the fixed time limit. The present (supplementary) European search report has been drawn up for those parts of the European patent application which relate to the inventions in respect of which search fees have been paid, namely claims:

☐ None of the further search fees have been paid within the fixed time limit. The present (supplementary) European search report has been drawn up for those parts of the European patent application which relate to the first mentioned in the claims, namely claims:

The Search Division considers that the present European patent application does not comply with the requirements of unity of invention and relates to several inventions or groups of inventions, namely:

1. claims: 1-15

automated inspection assembly comprising a frame subassembly, a positioning arm subassembly including a support arm, a kicker arm and a scanning subassembly

1.1. claims: 13-15

method of inspecting a pipe comprising the steps of transporting a scanning assembly to the pipe, remotely wedging the scanning assembly between the pipe and an opposing surface to support the scanning assembly employing an hydraulically operated wedge and scanning a surface of the pipe

Please note that all inventions mentioned under item 1, although not necessarily linked by a common inventive concept, could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee.

The application lacks unity (Art. 82 and Rule 44 EPC).

Independent claim 1 relates to an automated inspection assembly comprising a frame subassembly, a positioning arm subassembly including a support arm, a kicker arm and a scanning subassembly.

Independent claim 13 relates to a method of inspecting a pipe comprising the steps of transporting a scanning assembly to the pipe, remotely wedging the scanning assembly between the pipe and an opposing surface to support the scanning assembly employing an hydraulically operated wedge and scanning a surface of the pipe.

The common features of claims 1 and 13 are an inspecting apparatus and method comprising scanning means for scanning a portion of a member to be inspected. These common features are known from the state of the art (see for example document D1, abstract and fig. 1 and 7).

The special technical features of claim 1 over the prior art represented by D1 are the frame subassembly, the positioning arm subassembly including a support arm and the kicker arm as further defined therein. The technical effect of this feature is the provision of an automated inspection assembly that allows to inspect difficult to access components.

The special technical features of claim 13 over the prior art represented by D1 are transporting of the scanning assembly, remotely wedging it between a pipe to be inspected and an opposing surface and scanning the surface of the pipe. The technical effect of this feature is the inspection of the pipe by the scanning assembly.

Therefore, since the common features are known and since the special technical features are neither the same nor equivalent, the above-mentioned groups of inventions are neither linked by a single general inventive concept (Art. 82 EPC) nor by any identical or equivalent special technical feature (Rule 44 EPC).

**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT
ON EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION NO.**

EP 14 88 0971

This annex lists the patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned European search report.
The members are as contained in the European Patent Office EDP file on
The European Patent Office is in no way liable for these particulars which are merely given for the purpose of information.

26-07-2017

Patent document cited in search report		Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
US 6169776	B1	02-01-2001	NONE	

JP H07209261	A	11-08-1995	NONE	

US 2008087113	A1	17-04-2008	NONE	
